

The following are summaries of recent Project Safe Neighborhoods cases being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Three of the cases involve recent indictments – two in Rockford and one in Chicago, while the other two cases involve sentencing, both in Rockford. For further information, please contact Matt Cowl (312) 353-5354 or Randy Samborn (312) 353-5318.

United States v. Gregory V. Barrett, 02 CR 50074 (NDIL) – On Oct. 22, 2002, a federal grand jury in Rockford indicted Gregory V. Barrett, 29, last known address 2230 13th Ave., Rockford, on charges of being a felon-in-possession of a firearm and violation of the Armed Career Criminal statute, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(e)(1). On Aug. 22, 2002, Barrett was arrested by Rockford Police near a commercial business in the 1500 block of Broadway in Rockford. Barrett allegedly was in possession of a Winchester .22 long Model 74 rifle, and a Remington 30-06 Model 700 rifle at the time of his arrest. If convicted, Barrett faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison. AUSA Michael F. Iasparro and ATF Special Agent Dan Ivancich presented the case on behalf of the United States.

United States v. Valentino Montgomery, 02 CR 50075 (NDIL) – On Oct. 22, 2002, a federal grand jury in Rockford indicted Valentino Montgomery 25, last known address 715 Michigan, Rockford, on one count of being a felon-in-possession of a firearm in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). On Sept. 1, 2002, a Rockford Police detective observed a man with a gun while patrolling the On the Waterfront festival in downtown Rockford. The detective confronted the man and a struggle ensued, with the officer successfully removing the gun from the man's waistband before the suspect fled on foot. Further investigation identified the suspect as Montgomery and he was arrested on a state warrant on Sept. 8 in Rockford. Montgomery was charged with being in illegal possession of a Hi-Point model C 9mm handgun. If convicted, Montgomery faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. AUSA Michael F. Iasparro and ATF Special Agent Steve Smith presented the case on behalf of the United States.

United States v. Cedric Collins, 02 CR 981 (NDIL) – On Oct. 9, 2002, a federal grand jury in Chicago indicted Cedric Collins, 34, last known address 4426 West Maypole, Chicago, on one count of being a felon-in-possession of a firearm in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 922(g)(1); one count of possession with intent to distribute heroin in violation of Title 21 United States Code, Section 841(a)(1); and one count of using and carrying a firearm while committing a drug trafficking crime in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A). On May 18, 2002, Collins was arrested by Chicago Police following a chase through and around an apartment building in the 4400 block of W. West End. Collins allegedly tossed a Browning .25 caliber semi-automatic handgun and a plastic bag containing dime bags of heroin during the chase. If convicted, Collins faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on the felon-in-possession count and a mandatory minimum of five consecutive years on the use and carry count, in addition to whatever sentence is imposed on the drug count. AUSA Patrick Pope presented the case on behalf of the United States.

Note: In all three of the above cases, the charges are not evidence; the defendants are

presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. If convicted, the Court will determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

United States v. Larry J. Purifoy, 02 CR 50004 (NDIL) – On Oct. 11, 2002, Larry J. Purifoy, 46, last known address 417 Howard Ave., Rockford, was sentenced to 8 years in prison without parole following his conviction for illegally possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony. U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard also ordered Purifoy to serve 3 years of supervised release and to pay fines and assessments totaling \$400. On July 17, 2002, Purifoy pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm after previously being convicted of a felony. Purifoy admitted that on Oct. 17, 2001, he possessed a .380 caliber pistol. On that date, officers from the Metro Narcotics Unit of the Rockford Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department executed a search warrant at Purifoy's apartment, located at 417 Howard Avenue in Rockford. Purifoy admitted that when the officers entered his apartment, he pointed the .380 pistol at one of the officers. When Purifoy pointed the .380 at the officer, that officer and two others raised their duty weapons, pointed them at Purifoy, and ordered him to drop his weapon. Purifoy further admitted that he continued to point the gun at the officers for about 10 to 15 seconds while the officers repeatedly instructed him to drop the gun. Eventually Purifoy dropped the gun and the officers seized it. When the officers inspected Purifoy's gun, they saw that it was loaded with six live rounds, one of which was in the firing chamber. The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the Metro Narcotics Unit of the Rockford Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court in Rockford by AUSA Scott A. Verseman.

United States v. Jose Caldera, 02 CR 50017 (NDIL) – On Oct. 11, 2002, Jose Caldera, 24, formerly of 411 Island Ave., Rockford, was sentenced to 12 years in prison without parole following his conviction for illegally possessing four firearms and cocaine. Caldera pleaded guilty in July to possessing more than 1.5 kilograms of cocaine, unlawful possession of four firearms by a convicted felon and possession of four firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard ordered Caldera to serve 84 months in prison on the drug count and felon-in-possession count, followed by a mandatory consecutive term of 60 months for possessing firearms while committing the drug offense. Caldera was also ordered to forfeit approximately \$41,000 in cash seized from during a search of his residence, as well as the four firearms that he unlawfully possessed. Caldera was arrested on March 22, 2002, when the guns, cocaine and cash were seized during the search of Caldera's residence. He also admitted distributing a total of three kilograms of cocaine on other occasions prior to his arrest. The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Metro Narcotics Unit of the Rockford Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court in Rockford by AUSA Daniel L. Olson.